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the title of the United States to a continuous, unbroken lisière, or strip of territory, on the northwest American continental shore, between Mount Saint Elias and fifty-four degrees forty minutes north latitude. In August, 1898, the Anglo-American Joint High Commission assembled at Quebec, and soon after Canada formally made claim to a large slice of the Territory of Alaska. . . . If the Canadian Government has any serious and tangible proofs with which to support its claims it has not yet made them public.

The question between the two countries is transferred by treaty to a Commission, or tribunal of six jurists, three to be appointed by the United States and three by Great Britain.

With the Commission it must be left, but it is not easy to see how any reader of Mr. Balch's clear exposition, supported by the cumulative evidence of the twenty-eight maps presented, can fail to accept, as proved, the right of the United States to the *lisière* on the mainland, stretching from Portland Channel to Mount Saint Elias, and extending far enough inland to exclude the British possessions from access to the coast-line above fifty-four degrees forty minutes.

The book is handsomely printed and bound, and the maps are well reproduced.

*The Philippine Islands, 1493-1803. Explorations by Early Navigators, Descriptions of the Islands and their Peoples, their History and Records of the Catholic Missions, as related in Contemporaneous Books and Manuscripts, showing the Political, Economic, Commercial and Religious Conditions of those Islands, from their earliest Relations with European Nations to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. Translated from the Originals. Edited and annotated by Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson, with historical introduction and additional notes by Edward Gaylord Bourne. With maps, portraits and other illustrations. Vol. I—1493-1529; Vol. II—1521-1569. The Arthur H. Clark Company, Cleveland, Ohio, MCMIII. 8vo.*

These are the first of a series of fifty-five volumes to be published, containing English translations (and also, in some cases, the original texts) of manuscript, and printed books and documents, relating to the Philippine Islands for the 310 years beginning with the year 1493, and the Bulls of Alexander VI. to Ferdinand and Isabella, and closing with the *Estadismo*, or Itinerary, of Father Joaquin Martinez de Zúñiga in 1803.

One volume will be issued monthly until the work is completed.

The editors say, in their General Preface, that most of the material presented is now for the first time made accessible to English-

speaking readers. It is added that the aim is to secure historical accuracy, especially in that aspect which requires the sympathetic interpretation of each author's thought and intention; and to depict faithfully the various aspects of the life of the Filipinos, their relations with other peoples, and the gradual ascent of many tribes from barbarism. The volumes published are edited throughout with fidelity to this high aim.

Especially valuable is the Historical Introduction by Prof. Edward Gaylord Bourne, of Yale University (Vol. I, pp. 19-87). Those who read and meditate this Introduction will find themselves, perhaps for the first time, in possession of sound ideas as to the Spanish colonial system and the work of Spain in the Philippines.

The translations seem to be excellent, though in one place (Vol. I, p. 297) the rendering of the Spanish text has been overlooked in a foot-note. The extract of a letter from the Indies mentions three vessels under command of Magellan:

They had been sighted off the cape of San Agustin, from which point they had run about two hundred or three hundred leagues along the coast of Brasil. There they anchored in a river which flows [*properly, flowed*] across the whole of Brasil, and was of fresh water.

The foot-note reads: "This must have been the Strait of Magellan."

Cape San Agustin is within twenty miles of Recife, and at least seven hundred leagues north of the Strait of Magellan. The river of fresh water in which the ships anchored is to be identified with the Rio de La Plata, which the writer of the letter appears to have confounded (in 1522) with the strait discovered by Magellan.

The illustrations of Vol. I are: Portrait and Facsimile Signature of Magellan; Title-page of *De Moluccis Insulis*, from the First Edition in the Lenox Library; and a Map of the Philippine Archipelago.

Those of Vol. II are: Portrait of Legazpi; Portrait of Fray Andrés de Urdaneta; Signatures of Legazpi and other officials; and the Santo Niño of Cebú (image of the child Jesus found there by Legazpi's soldiers in 1565).